

Differential Response to Strained Parent-Child Relationships— adapted from Fidler, Bala & Saini, 2012

Assessment: Level of Severity	Mild	Moderate	Severe
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parental conduct 2. Protection vs probability of harm 3. Rigidity of child's perceptions/behaviour towards parents 4. Frequency of parent-child contact 5. Duration of strained relationships 6. History of parents' rigidity 7. Responsiveness to education/treatment as suggested 8. Compliance with court orders, parenting plans, treatment agreements 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimal interference/badmouthing 2. Parent values child's relationship with other parent but occasionally displays misguided protective behaviour 3. Child values relationship with both parents, but displays discomfort. Minor interruptions of parent-child contact (eg. late, missed visits, short-lived transition difficulties in presence of FP) 4. Situational and infrequent relationship strain (eg. due to affinity, alignment, expected and time-limited upset over parents' separation) 5. Generally flexible but can be rigid 6. Responsive to education/treatment to improve parent-child relationships 7. Compliant with parenting plan, treatment agreement and court orders 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Episodic interference/badmouthing 2. Parent's overprotection (unwittingly or intentionally) undermines the child's relationship with the other parent 3. Child displays more resistance than at mild level, although reactions are mixed, confused or inconsistent (eg. before or during transitions, while with resisted parent) 4. Contact is sporadic, infrequent and/or delayed 5. Pattern of missed opportunities for parent-child contact; child takes longer to settle in after transition than at mild level and may become unsettled closer to return time to FP 6. Generally rigid but some instances of flexibility 7. Attends treatment but sporadic and/or with minimal success 8. Inconsistent compliance with parenting plan, treatment agreement and court orders 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psychological abusive parental alienating behaviours related to mental health issues (eg. paranoia) 2. Identifies actions as protecting (rights of) child, despite repeated investigations or evidence that demonstrates that the risk of future harm is improbable, or makes malicious allegations knowing they are unfounded 3. Rigid/extreme child reaction to RP (eg. threats to run away, or harm to self or other, acting out, or aggressive behaviour) 4. No or very infrequent contact between child and RP 5. Chronic parent-child disruptions 6. Inflexible position taking 7. Refusal of treatment/previous attempts for treatment unsuccessful 8. Noncompliance with parenting plan, treatment agreement and court orders
<p>Legal Interventions: From court support, monitoring and intervening</p>	<p>Detailed parenting plan, including specified parenting time with RP, but primary residence care with FP</p> <p>Early case conference</p> <p>Court management and monitoring</p> <p>Referral to parenting education or counselling with experienced therapist</p> <p>Warning of sanctions for noncompliance of parenting plan and orders</p>	<p>Highly detailed parenting plan (specified court ordered parenting time for child with RP)</p> <p>Court monitoring and continuity with one judge</p> <p>Warning of sanctions or custody reversal</p> <p>Sanctions for noncompliance (contempt of court, opportunity to purge contempt)</p> <p>Consideration of joint custody to ensure involvement of the RP in child-related decision making</p> <p>Consideration of extended periods of contact over holidays with RP (eg. summer school break)</p> <p>Consideration of equal parenting time</p> <p>Court appointment of a therapist experienced in alienation</p>	<p>Strong sanctions for noncompliance implemented</p> <p>Possibility of transfer of custody to rejected parent with one or more of following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interim interruption of contact (at least 3 months) with FP or until behaviour change demonstrated - monitored or supervised contact with FP - use of transitional site to prepare for transfer of custody to RP - eventual return to FP if there is an absence of parental alienating behaviours demonstrated
<p>Client Interventions: Map interventions to client needs</p>	<p>Preventative parent education</p> <p>Psychoeducational groups for children</p> <p>Family therapy (members seen in various combinations)</p> <p>Therapist reporting back to court when there is noncompliance with parenting plan, orders or treatment agreement</p>	<p>Court-ordered family therapy (members seen in various combinations) to repair relationships and implement court-ordered parenting time with RP</p> <p>Additional therapy for child, rejected or favoured parent</p> <p>Intensive residential family intervention (may be with one family or group therapy), with both parents and children, combining therapy and psychoeducation (eg. family camp program, weekend workshop)</p> <p>Therapist reporting back to court when there is noncompliance with parenting plan, orders or treatment agreement</p> <p>Parenting Coordinator (case manager / monitor interventions)</p>	<p>Custody reversal (as above) accompanied by reintegration intervention with child and RP, followed by intervention/therapy to reunify FP</p> <p>Parent education and individual therapy for FP with a view to reunification with the child</p> <p>Therapist reporting back to court when there is noncompliance with parenting plan, orders or treatment agreement</p> <p>Parenting Coordinator (case manager / monitor of interventions)</p>

Note FP=Favoured Parent; RP=Rejected Parent